

# NEED IDEAS FOR YOUR ACTIVITY AREA??

SOURCE: [HTTP://WWW.SCHOOLCARNIVALS.COM/GAMES/ALPHABETICAL.HTM](http://www.schoolcarnivals.com/games/alphabetical.htm)

## BANK-A-SHOT, FLUKIE BALL



This is a common game at carnival midways. Players try to bounce a ball off of a target on an easel-type stand and get the ball to land in a basket. You could use an art easel as the target and a plastic laundry basket set at the easel's base as your basket. We have the [wiffle-type balls](#) in our Catalog.

## BEAN BAG TOSS



Make a target out of plywood or foamcore (available at art supply stores) for beanbags. Paint the board with a fun design and cut out holes large enough for the bean bags to go through. Each player gets to throw three bean bags at the target. It's helpful to have at least two sets of bean bags on hand so one helper can chase bags while the other helper works with the next person in line. We have a several [bean bag games](#) in our Catalog, as well as [bean bags](#) to use if you make your own game.

### **Variations:**

**Asteroid Blast:** Use an outer space-related picture as the target. Ideas are stars, planets, or a funny looking alien. You could make the beanbags to look like asteroids by stuffing them with a few marbles among the beans.

**Lion Tamer:** Set up a hula hoop so it stands up securely. Player tries to throw a small stuffed (or beanbag) lion or tiger through the hoop. Decorate the hoop with colored paper to look like flames.

**Circus Beanbags:** Use a circus-related picture as the target. Ideas are a clown or jester, circus elephant, or tiger. You could make the beanbags to look like juggling balls for an added effect.

**Feed the Cows (or Pigs):** Use a picture of a pig or a cow as the target. You could make the beanbags out of felt to look like corncobs, or use dried or plastic corncobs.

## BUCKET TOSS



Attach 3 to 6 small buckets to a board about 6" apart. The player tries to toss a ball into the buckets in order, from the closest to the farthest away.

### **Variations:**

**3-2-1 Blastoff:** Paint the board to look like a rocket and use red, white, and blue buckets.

## BUSHEL BASKET TOSS

Nail 1-3 large bushel baskets onto a board. Angle the board to tilt the baskets about 45 degrees. Players try to toss a softball into the basket so it does not bounce out. Harder than it sounds! We have [rubber baseballs](#) for this game in our Catalog.

## CAN KNOCKDOWN



Stack cans in a pyramid. Each player gets to throw one to three balls at the cans. You can use tennis balls, rubber baseballs, or other types of balls for this game. You can decide if they must knock down all or just a few cans to win a prize. We have some [can knockdown sets](#) in our Catalog.

## DINOSAUR DIG

Fill a wheelbarrow or rigid plastic wading pool with sand. Bury small plastic dinosaurs in the sand. Give the player a small shovel and let them dig up their prize. This one is popular with the smaller players!

## DUCK-O-WAR

You have two players at either end of a small pool, long tub, or a wallpapering tray. Each player has a squirt gun and a floating duck is set in the center of the pool. The challengers try to get the duck to the opposite side of the pool to win.

## DUCK POND



I once won a live duckling at a fair, but you'd better stick with the plastic kind for your carnival. The player selects a duck from the wading pool "pond," the number on the bottom of the duck determines the prize. The player can just pick the duck up or you can use a net to scoop it up. We have [ducks](#) and an inexpensive [pool](#) for this game in our Catalog.

### **Variations:**

**Fish Pond:** Instead of ducks, use plastic fish with a small metal washer attached. The player uses a fishing pole with a magnet on the end to "catch" their numbered fish. You could mix a few plastic sharks and/or octopuses in with the fish for fun. See our [fishing](#) games in our Catalog.

**Snake Pit:** Instead of ducks, use small vinyl snakes. The player selects a snake that has a number on the bottom.

## FEED THE ANIMAL

Paint a board with a picture of an animal. Leave a hole for the "food" to be thrown into. Player gets three tries to throw the "food" into the hole. To make the game harder, have the player use a slingshot to toss the food.

### **Variations:**

**Hungry Elephant:** Paint an elephant on your backboard and have the players throw peanuts into the elephant's trunk. For more fun, make a trunk out of a curved tube like a section of dryer vent or PVC pipe and have that extend out from your backboard.

**Monkey Business:** Paint a monkey on your backboard and have the players throw plastic bananas into the monkey's mouth or hand.

**Shark Bait:** Paint a shark on your backboard and have the players throw plastic fish into the shark's mouth. If you can make or borrow one, it would be fun to have the player stand on a surfboard.

## FISHING POND

This is a classic. Player extends a small fishing pole over (or through a hole in) a screen. The operator in back of the screen attaches a prize to the line. Fishing poles can easily be made from bamboo sticks or wooden dowels with a clothespin or paper clamp on the end of a string. Paint the screen with lively underwater designs for more fun. Check out our [fishing set](#).

## FUNNY PHOTOS

Paint foam core or plywood with funny bodies (circus performers, aliens, farmers, etc.) cut out holes for faces. Take Polaroid or digital pictures. We have some vinyl [photo door banners](#) available in our Catalog.

## HOOPLA

Player throws a hoop to try and ring a prize and the Hoopla stand. A Hoopla stand is basically a box with a dowel sticking out of the top on which a prize is attached. The hoop must be completely around the prize and the stand to win. To make the game harder, use a smaller hoop. To make it easier, use a large hoop such as a hula hoop. We have a nice mid-sized [Hoopla Ring](#) in our Catalog.



### Variations:

**Ring Around Saturn:** Use a ball as the prize. Space-theme balls are available, or use a basketball or beach ball.

**Teddy Bear Toss:** Use a stuffed teddy bear as the prize.

**Hog Calling:** Use a stuffed pig as the prize.

**Prizewinning Pumpkin:** Use a pumpkin as the target, could also be the prize or use a stuffed animal or other prize.

## HORSESHOES

Player must make at least one "ringer" to get a prize. We have an [indoor horseshoes set](#) in our Catalog.

## MINI-GOLF



Whether it's a single hole or a 9-hole course, miniature golf is always fun. Someone in your organization may have (or have access to through their company) a mini-golf set up. They are also available for rent from party suppliers (check the Yellow Pages). We have [golf games](#) in our Catalog.

### Variations:

**One Giant Step or Golfing on the Moon:** Set up a mini-golf hole across a thick foam pad to simulate a moon walk. Cut on hole in the pad for the ball to go in.

## PARATROOPER LANDING

Player throws a figure with attached parachute at prizes scattered on the floor. Player gets the prize they land nearest to. We have some [alien paratroopers](#) in our Catalog. This is a very simple game to set up and works well for class and birthday parties.

### Variations:

**Alien Landing:** Use the small 3" Frisbees instead of a paratrooper. These are available from most party suppliers. We have also used full-size Frisbees with a clear plastic cup inverted on the top. The kids made their own pom-pom "aliens" to ride in this "spaceship."

## PING PONG BALL TOSS

Use goldfish bowls as the targets. Each player gets to throw three ping pong balls. You can color-code the bowls to prizes or use 1-3 balls in to determine the prize. It's helpful to have at least two sets of balls on hand so one helper can chase balls while the other helper works with the next person in line. We have [ping pong balls](#) in our Catalog.

### Variations:

**Floating Bowls:** Use bowls on floating rings as the targets. These are available from carnival suppliers. A little petroleum jelly in the bowl makes the ball stay in easier.

**Cupcake Pans:** Use cupcake pans as the targets. Color the bottom of each pan to determine the prize.

## PIRATE'S CHEST

We decorated the booth to look like a pirate's cave with a large treasure chest. In the chest were little boxes in the shape of treasure chests. We wrote a number inside each little box (or you can write a number on a slip of paper). The player selected a box and received the prize corresponding to the number. Prizes ranged from eye patches and cardboard pirate hats to plush parrots and inflatable pirates. It was important to collect the used boxes and set them aside as we had a set amount of prizes corresponding to each number. We have the [mini treasure chests](#) in our Catalog.

## QUARTER DROP

Set up an aquarium with a small container on the bottom (a treasure chest would be fun). Fill the aquarium with water and add decorations if desired. The player drops a quarter or other small object (marbles would also work) and tries to land it in the container.

## RING TOSS



Player tries to toss wood, plastic, or rope rings over a target. We have [ring toss games and rings](#) in our Catalog.

### Variations:

**On the Farm Ring Toss:** Use farm animals as the targets. The bendy animals on a ring toss frame would work great here.

**Floating Ring Toss:** Use a floating target to add a bit of splash to the game.

**Flamingo Ring Toss:** Use plastic lawn ornament flamingos as the targets. Player tries to toss the ring around the flamingo's neck.

**Pop Bottle Ring Toss:** This is always a very popular game at our carnival. We use 2-liter bottles of pop (donated) as the targets. Rings made from rope work much better than wood or plastic rings for this game as they don't bounce off as much. I have also seen this game done with cans of pop (set up on shoe boxes) and wooden rings.